

the immediate invasion of the new state by five Arab armies.

For more than six decades, this country has stood by Israel. We have admired its pluck, its ingenuity, and its dedication to democratic principles in spite of all of the threats it faces. While there has always been a strategic dimension to the U.S.-Israel alliance, the relationship has really been rooted in our shared values.

Madam Speaker, 17 years ago, on the occasion of the signing of the Oslo Accords, late Prime Minister Rabin spoke movingly of his journey.

He said, "We have come from Jerusalem, the ancient and eternal capital of the Jewish people. We have come from an anguished and grieving land. We have come from a people, a home, a family, that has not known a single year—not a single month—in which mothers have not wept for their sons. We have come to try and put an end to the hostilities so that our children and our children's children will no longer have to experience the painful cost of war, violence, and terror."

"We have come to secure their lives and to ease the sorrow and the painful memories of the past—to hope and pray for peace."

We share the prime minister's sorrow, and to the people of Israel, we say, America is with you.

PARADISE ISLAND FOR ILLEGALS

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Sara Carter, at the Washington Examiner, reports the Mexican Government is opening up a satellite consular office on Catalina Island in California. It will be housed at the island's country club. Catalina Bay is a postcard picture of the lifestyles of the rich and famous, but the island has a long history of drug smuggling and human trafficking.

The consular's office is not there to help people come to the U.S. legally. Instead, the Mexican Government is giving out I.D. cards, called matricula cards, to illegals. These cards are used by illegals in the United States to get credit, to open bank accounts and—get this—to receive federally funded housing on the island.

The Mexican Government is an accomplice to the unlawful entry by these illegals. As further evidence of the willful arrogance of Mexico to violate and to ignore U.S. immigration laws, ICE officers said Mexican officials asked them to temporarily halt the enforcement of U.S. immigration laws on the island.

Isn't that special? Meanwhile, the invasion continues.

And that's just the way it is.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MAFFEI). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. BALDWIN addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO DEFEND ITSELF

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MCCARTHY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I want to talk tonight about, obviously, some of the issues that are on everybody's minds as to what happened last week with Israel.

This was a premeditated attack. It was intended to provoke a response and to purposely initiate a violent confrontation. We know that those on the flotilla had terrorist ties to Hamas and to Iran and that Israel warned the boats that they were in violation of a lawful blockade and offered them safe harbor, where all the humanitarian aid would be off-loaded and delivered to Gaza.

It is striking how quickly the world looked to blame Israel for this incident, but as the details have emerged, it has become clear that the Israeli military attempted to resolve the situation peacefully and in accordance with international law.

I fully support Israel and their right to keep its people safe. It is my sincere hope that this incident will not deter our country and the international community from the need to continue to support Israel, to recognize its right to exist, and to take the steps required to advance the peace process.

Israel is a longstanding ally and friend of the United States, and we should continue to do whatever we can to support Israel and to ensure that international challenges to its security are resolved quickly and peacefully.

These Israeli servicemembers were beaten and stabbed while trying to escort the ship to port. Those on board the ship were trying to help a recognized terrorist group, Hamas, and Iran has offered to escort future flotillas.

Iran is a threat, not just to the United States or to Israel, but to the world. It is a real threat against global safety. We cannot just sit and watch Iran stir this pot up anymore. Iran has vowed to eliminate Israel. We as the United States should stay together to make sure that Israel, the true democracy in the Middle East, has that opportunity to protect its land.

Mr. Speaker, it is always a terrible thing when there is loss of life, but it is more terrible when other democracies start to condemn another democracy. Israel has the right to protect itself and its citizens. We in the United States would have done the same thing. We in the United States have come back to protect our citizens.

Mr. Speaker, the June 1, 2010, incident involving a Turkish-sponsored flotilla and the Israeli Defense Forces was a premeditated attack, intended to provoke a response and purposely initiate a violent confrontation. We

know that those on the flotilla had terrorist ties to Hamas and to Iran and that Israel warned the boats that they were in violation of a lawful blockade and offered them safe harbor, where all humanitarian aid would be off-loaded and delivered to Gaza. It is striking how quick the world looked to blame Israel for this incident but as the details have emerged, it has become clear that the Israeli military attempted to resolve the situation peacefully and in accordance with international law.

I fully support Israel and their right to keep its people safe. It is my sincere hope that this incident will not deter our country and the international community from the need to continue to support Israel, recognize its right to exist, and take the steps required to advance the peace process. Israel is a longstanding ally and friend of the United States and we should continue to do whatever we can to support Israel and ensure that intentional challenges to its security are resolved quickly and peacefully.

These Israeli service members were beaten and stabbed while just trying to escort the ship to port. Those on board the ship were trying to help a recognized terrorist group, Hamas. And Iran has offered to escort future flotillas. Iran is a threat not just to the United States or Israel but the world and is a real threat against global safety. We cannot just sit and watch Iran.

AQUINAS BASEBALL

(Mr. GINGREY of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I applaud the Aquinas High School baseball team for reaching their first-ever Class A State Championship series.

I am a proud graduate of St. Thomas Aquinas in Augusta, Georgia, and I played on the baseball team under Coach Denny Leonard, so I was particularly thrilled to hear of the success that they enjoyed this season.

Coach Mike Laney did a terrific job getting his team to the championship. Aquinas surpassed all expectations. They were not forecasted to make it past the second round of the tournament, so I know Coach Laney must be especially proud with the team's march to the State finals. The Fighting Irish took down Walker in a competitive three-game semifinal series and then advanced to the championship to face Wesleyan, the defending State champions.

They gave it all they had, but unfortunately, they came up a little short. Nevertheless, Aquinas has a very young team, so there is not a doubt in my mind that they will be back next year—even stronger and more competitive.

Congratulations on your hard work, accomplishments, and great season. Go, Irish.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. HOLT) is recognized for 5 minutes.